

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 12, 1999

LB 729

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I forgot to mention one thing before I ran out of time. I'm opposed to LB 729, I am strongly opposed to it, but not for the reasons that Senator Quandahl gave. But, if he's going to vote the way I'm going to vote, I don't care what his motivation is, he can think that the sun comes up in the west and sets in the east at midnight, but if he's going to vote the same way I vote, that's the only thing that's relevant at that time. And I think it's good to have differing opinions, and especially on a matter as serious as this. Although I disagree with his conclusions, I think Senator Quandahl's reasoning is more cogent than that of the Attorney General. And people should learn not to disregard what their mind tells them after regarding and studying the facts, just because somebody who has a degree or a title says, well I disagree. That title doesn't bestow anything on that person in terms of a higher intelligence or a greater facility in the use of logic, or understanding statutes or the constitution. Senator Quandahl, you could very well be right. But, as you pointed out, until a court resolves that issue, if it goes that far, your opinion is no more valid than my opinion. But people are mistaken when they often make that comment that everybody is entitled to an opinion. Well, when an opinion is going to be expressed on a specific issue which requires a certain amount of knowledge, a certain grasp of the facts in order to understand enough to speak intelligently on a matter, unless a person has those qualifications, that person is not entitled to an opinion in the sense of an opinion which is worthy of any respect or regard. Anybody could come off the street in court and say, Your Honor, my opinion is that the constitution says that you ought to be off that bench. He can think that, if he wants to, but that...that means nothing. And, if he expresses it under the wrong circumstances, he's going to be found in contempt of court and something may happen to him. So, to come back to what we're discussing here, I will oppose Senator Quandahl's amendment although, whether it's accepted or not, I'm still going to oppose the bill and I'm going to oppose it strenuously. The reason those idiotic term limit proposals were struck down is because they violated the constitution. Now...and the red letter, the scarlet letter thing, too. What Senator Schimek is saying is that we ought to use the Office of the Secretary of State to correct those deficiencies so that they'll be constitutional. I say when you undertake an